

SENATE BILL NO. 4

INTRODUCED BY D. WANZENRIED

BY REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS GOVERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL; CREATING A WATER POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL; SPECIFYING MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE; ELIMINATING RESTRICTIONS ON TERMS OF OFFICE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL; AMENDING SECTION 85-2-105, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 5-16-103, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 85-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

"85-2-105. Environmental quality council-- water policy duties. (1) The environmental quality council shall meet as often as necessary, including during the interim between sessions, to perform the duties specified within this section.

(2) On a continuing basis, the environmental quality council shall:

(a) advise the legislature on the adequacy of the state's water policy and on important state, regional, national, and international developments that affect Montana's water resources;

(b) oversee the policies and activities of the department, other state executive agencies, and other state institutions as those policies and activities affect the water resources of the state;

(c) assist with interagency coordination related to Montana's water resources; and

(d) communicate with the public on matters of water policy as well as the water resources of the state.

(3) On a regular basis, the environmental quality council shall:

(a) analyze and comment on the state water plan required by 85-1-203, when filed by the department;

(b) analyze and comment on the report of the status of the state's renewable resource grant and loan program required by 85-1-621, when filed by the department;

(c) analyze and comment on water-related research undertaken by any state agency, institution, college, or university;

(d) analyze, verify, and comment on the adequacy of and information contained in the water information

1 system maintained by the natural resource information system under 90-15-305; and

2 (e) report to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

3 (4) (a) To perform the duties specified in this section, the environmental quality council shall form a
4 standing water policy subcommittee.

5 (b) The subcommittee must include:

6 (i) four members, two from each political party, who are legislators appointed to the environmental quality
7 council;

8 (ii) two members who are public members of the environmental quality council; and

9 (iii) six at-large members who may be members of the legislature or the public and who are not currently
10 serving on the environmental quality council.

11 (5) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the environmental quality council
12 to carry out its water policy duties."

13
14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Repealer. Section 5-16-103, MCA, is repealed.

15 - END -